

REMARKS

Agent for Applicant respectfully submits original claim 4; previously presented claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 19-20 and 30-34; currently amended claims 1, 5, 18, 28 and 29; and cancelled claims 2, 8, 10-17, 21-27 and 35 for consideration by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. 102, Anticipation

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4 and 28-31 as being anticipated by DeZorzi (6,518,875).

Agent for Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 28 as presented are not anticipated by DeZorzi. Specifically, DeZorzi does not disclose that the predetermined sampling interval for sensing pressure is changeable during adjustment of the vacuum regulator for which the digital pressure display is provided. In fact, DeZorzi does not contemplate the adjustment of a vacuum regulator at all. Moreover, DeZorzi does not teach nor contemplate a digital display for a vacuum regulator, nor a sampling interval which is temporarily increased during adjustment of the regulator [see paragraph 45 of the specification and claim 29].

Support for claims 1 and 28 can be found at least at paragraphs 45 and 48 and, in one aspect, the advantage that may be provided by changing the sampling interval includes, for example, “to give a more accurate reflection of the vacuum during this transition period” (para. 48).

The Examiner acknowledges that claim 18 is not anticipated by DeZorzi. Since claims 3-4 and 29-31 are dependent upon one or more of claims 1, 18 and 28, Agent for Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3, 4 and 28-31 are not anticipated by DeZorzi and are therefore in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 102.

35 U.S.C. 103, Obviousness

The Examiner stated that claims 5, 6, 32 and 33 are unpatentable over DeZorzi in view of Salmond (5,032,287); that claims 7 and 34 are unpatentable over DeZorzi in view of Salmond and further in view of Rabizadeh (5,606,123); that claims 8, 9 and 18 are unpatentable over Saito et al. (6,171,104) in view of DeZorzi; and that claims 19 and 20 are unpatentable over Saito et al. in view of DeZorzi and further in view of Gauthier.

Agent for Applicant respectfully submits that all claims as presented are patentable over DeZorzi in view of Salmond; DeZorzi in view of Salmond and further in view of Rabizadeh; Saito et al. in view of DeZorzi; and Saito et al. in view of DeZorzi and further in view of Gauthier.

More specifically, all claims are dependent upon one or more of claims 1, 18, and 28. As previously mentioned, DeZorzi does not teach or contemplate the subject matter claimed in claims 1 or 28. DeZorzi also does not teach or contemplate the subject matter of claim 18, which includes the limitation that the predetermined sampling interval for sensing pressure is changeable by operation of a manual pressure control valve.

In addition, none of the above mentioned references, namely DeZorzi, Salmond, Rabizadeh, Saito et al., or Gauthier disclose or contemplate that the predetermined sampling interval for sensing pressure can be changed by: adjustment of the vacuum regulator; or operation of a manual pressure control valve.

Therefore, Agent for Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5-9, 18-20 and 32-34 are patentable over DeZorzi in view of Salmond; DeZorzi in view of Salmond and further in view of Rabizadeh; Saito et al. in view of DeZorzi; and Saito et al. in view of DeZorzi and further in view of Gauthier.

CONCLUSIONS

Agent for Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully solicits same.

AGENT FOR APPLICANT INVITES EXAMINER TO CALL AGENT FOR APPLICANT SHOULD THERE BE ANY QUESTIONS.

Yours respectfully,



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